

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0009], [0010] and [0010] beginning at page 2, line 17 with the following rewritten version:

-- [0009] U.S. Patent No. 6,387,075 discloses a further catheter which has a spiral cut into the hypotube distally of the woven catheter shaft. Said spiral, however, is just meant to improve the flexibility of the catheter shaft in the distally situated region of the catheter. Therefore, according to the above-mentioned U.S. Patent No. 5,569,200, the spiral cannot prevent the risk of kinking of the catheter behind the fitting.

[0010] Furthermore, it is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,387,075 that for preventing kinking of the catheter behind the fitting the proximal catheter shaft is reinforced with a polymer over a length of about 6 to 12 inches or stabilized by way of reinforcement. Said reinforcement, however, just shifts the point of kinking in distal direction towards the end of the reinforcement. Moreover, the polymer reinforcement reduces the available and usable length of the catheter, thus resulting in an undesired extension of the catheter shaft.

[0011] Finally, in a further embodiment for reinforcing the proximal catheter shaft, U.S. Patent No. 6,387,075 describes a catheter whose proximal shaft consists, instead of a hypotube, of a woven fabric placed between an inner and an outer polymer tube. This embodiment avoids the problem of kinking of the catheter by installation of a catheter section that does not consist of the hypotube, but is made up of novel additional shaft components. This, however, entails considerable drawbacks due to reduced pushability and a troublesome and expensive production of the catheter. --

Please replace paragraph [0030] beginning at page 6, line 7 with the following rewritten version:

-- [0030] In the embodiment which is shown in Fig. 1 and particularly preferred, the bending section 6 is designed as a spiral 7 that is cut into the catheter shaft 2 and formed with a selectable number of spiral sections. --